(3) Special Voluntary retirement scheme for rationalisation of surplus workmen would be announced by the mill management;

(4) 7 day working/interval working would be continued or stopped at the discretion of the management; and

(5) to give recoverable advance of Rs. 1000 at the time of interim agreement and another advance of Rs. 500 at the time of reopening the mill to enable the workmen to smoothly re-start the mill.

The operation of the mill has been suspended by the management with effect from 1st June, 1988 due to non-availability of electricity.

(c) No Wages have been paid to the workers since the suspension of operations in the mill w.e.f. 1-6-1988.

Economic offences

2470. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of eonomic offences committed during 1987 and 1988 involving more than Rs. 1 lakh in each case, other than narcotics smuggling, foreign exchange racket and evasion of customs and central excise duties; and

(b) what is the name of the State in which highest number of suh cases involving the largest amount of money was detected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) The number of economic offences committed during the years 1987 and 1988 are given as under:

	No. of cases detected involving more than Rs. 1 lakh	
	1987	1988
Central Excise	1260	833
Enforcement	1588	1000
	Total number of cases detected	
	1987	1988 (upto 21-11-88)
Anti-smuggling	55,873	50,122

(b) The maximum number of cases involving evasion of Central Excise duty of over Rs. 1 lakh occurred in State of Gujarat in 1987 and 1988 (upto 31-10-88).

The Enforcement Directorate and Anti-smuggling Unit do not maintain Statewise statistics.

Arrest of a Delhi-based arms dealer

2471. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Delhi-based arms dealer against whom a warrant was issued and who was declered a 'proclaimed offender' under the Official Secrets Act, has not so far been arrested;

(b) whether the same arms dealer is at present in Delhi and staying in East-West Medical Centre, 38, Gold Links, New Delhi;

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to arrest him; and

(d) if no steps have so far been taken, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS.

(SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir. No case under the "Indian Official Secrets Act" relating to an arms dealer has been reported.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Settlement of insurance claims

2472. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that general insurance companies take unreasonably long time to settle insurance claims;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a claim No. 62|87-88|393 on National Insurance Company, Asaf Ali Road Branch, New Delhi has not yet been settled although all the formalities were ful-filled by the claimant in the third week of June, 1988; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to prevent recurrence of such delays?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No. Sir.

(b) The formalities in respect of the claim in question were completed only on 3-11-88 when the loss voucher duly signed by the insured was submitted to the Insurance Company. A cheque towards the settlement of the claim was sent to the insured at her address on 17-11-88.

(c) There has been no undue delay in settlement of this claim. The General Insurance Industry has, however, been initiating from time to time several specific measures with a view to settle claims expeditiously such as simplification and standardisation of claims settlement procedure, setting up of special cells at Regional Offices to attempt out-of-court settlement of Third Party claims wherever possible, settlement of claims pending with MACT through Lok Adalats, setting up of Grievance Cells at various levels of Offices and availability of heads of all Offices including Chairman-cum-Managing Directors of subsidiary companies on specified dates every month to personally meet the claimants having any grievance.

Arrests made in Rajasthan, Punjab and J&K for passing on vital information regarding troops movement

2473. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that since October, 1987 a number of Indians, including some serving army Officers were arrested in Rajasthan, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir for passing on vital information regarding deployment of troops in the border regions;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the number of persons including the serving army officers with their ranks who have been arrested so far since October, 1987, the nature of their espionage activities and their links within the country and in Pakistan, identified by Government; and

(c) what action has so far been taken by Government against the persons involved in espionage activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Information is being collected from the concerned State Governments and will be laid on the Table of the House on receipt.